THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) The matter is under consideration and details would be laid down on the Table of the House.

Closing of tourism offices abroad

†3768. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering for closing some of its offices abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of offices of Ministry of Tourism located abroad at present with name of the countries thereof;

(d) the amount spent by the Ministry on these offices during the last three years; and

(e) the amount that will be saved by Ministry every year by closing the offices located abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General (Tourism) was constituted to review the India Tourism Offices abroad and suggest restructuring. The Committee analysed the flow of international tourists to India from different regions/countries. It recommended the closure of some offices because the flow of tourists from the countries under the purview of these offices is not significant and the expenditure being incurred on these offices is not commensurate with the advantages offered by them. It recommended that marketing and promotional activities in these countries could be undertaken through alternative methods and techniques thereby reducing the non-plan expenditure of the Department on account of these offices. This recommendation was considered and accepted.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Department of Tourism has ordered the closure of five offices at Moscow, Buenos Aires, Madrid, Tel Aviv and Stockholm.

(c) The number of offices of Ministry of Tourism located abroad at present with name of the countries is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(d) The amount spent by the Ministry on these offices during the last three years are as under (Rs. in Lakhs):—

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Plan Non-Plan	5643.59 1327.83	5345.89 1307.60	5051.92 1505.62
TOTAL:	6971.42	6653.49	6557.54

(e) An amount Rs. 262 lakhs (approx.) which is incurred on maintenance of the five offices decided to be closed down, will be saved.

Statement

Number of offices of Ministry of Tourism located abroad

SI. No.	Name of the Office	Country	Status*
1	2	3	4
1.	Sydney	Australia	
2.	Singapore	Singapore	
3.	Frankfurt	Germany	
4.	Paris	France	
5.	Amsterdam	The Netherlands	
6.	Milan	Italy	
7.	Madrid	Spain	Ordered to be closed
8.	Stockholm	Sweden	Ordered to be closed
9.	Tel Aviv	Israel	Ordered to be closed

All Offices will be closed onfcy 30.04.2002.

1	2	3	4
10.	New York	United States of America	
11.	Los Angeles	United States of America	
12.	Buenos Aires	Argentina	Ordered to be closed
13.	Toronto	Canada	
14.	Dubai	United Arab Emirates	
15.	Johannesburg	South Africa	
16.	Tokyo	Japan	
17.	London	United Kingdom	
18.	Moscow	Russia	Closed already

Cruise Tourism

†3769. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to tap the potential of 'Cruise Tourism', which of late is emerging as an important dimension in foreign tourist arrivals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the infrastructure facilities that are proposed to be provided at major ports for attracting cruise liners?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) However, considering the potential of Cruise Tourism, the Government have constituted two National Committees *viz.* one Committee under the chairmanship of Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.